

## Spain to replace USA as second most popular tourism location

18th January, 2018



Spain is set to replace the USA as the world's second most popular tourist destination. This is according to statistics from the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The number of international tourists arriving in

Spain grew by over 7 per cent in 2017. Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy corroborated the figures. He said the country had a record year in 2017, with more than 82 million international visitors. The growing number of international arrivals continues a growing trend. The figure for 2017 broke Spain's tourist arrival records for the fifth straight year. This is despite the terror attack on Barcelona in August, and demonstrations and unrest in Spain's Catalonia region for independence.

There was an 8 per cent increase in tourism to Europe in 2017. The UNWTO said: "Led by Mediterranean destinations, Europe recorded extraordinary results for such a large and rather mature region." Africa is increasingly becoming an established and attractive destination and tourism there also went up by 8 per cent. Asia and the Pacific saw growth of 6 per cent, the Middle East recorded 5 per cent, and tourism to the Americas grew by 3 per cent. The UNWTO added: "International travel continues to grow strongly, consolidating the tourism sector as a key driver in economic development." France retained its position as the world's top tourist destination.

Sources: [the-guardian.com](http://the-guardian.com) / [mirror.co.uk](http://mirror.co.uk) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

## Writing

Discuss reasons how tourism is helping and damaging the world. Is tourism good?

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

replace / tourist / destination / statistics / international / trend / record / independence / increase / destinations / mature / region / attractive / travel / development / driver

## True / False

- a) The United Nations provided statistics on world tourism. T / F
- b) Tourism to Spain grew by 7 per cent in 2017. T / F
- c) The Spanish Prime Minister disagreed with the figures. T / F
- d) Spain has seen record tourism for 10 straight years. T / F
- e) There was an 18% increase in tourism to Europe in 2017. T / F
- f) Tourism to Africa fell sharply in 2017. T / F
- g) The America's saw an increase in tourism of less than 4%. T / F
- h) The most popular tourist destination in 2017 was France. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>replace</b>        | a. tendency       |
| 2. <b>destination</b>    | b. crucial        |
| 3. <b>corroborated</b>   | c. traditional    |
| 4. <b>trend</b>          | d. take over from |
| 5. <b>demonstrations</b> | e. strengthening  |
| 6. <b>extraordinary</b>  | f. protests       |
| 7. <b>established</b>    | g. port of call   |
| 8. <b>consolidating</b>  | h. kept           |
| 9. <b>key</b>            | i. confirmed      |
| 10. <b>retained</b>      | j. remarkable     |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What kind of tourist are you?
- c) Which three places would you really like to visit?
- d) Why do you think Spain is so popular?
- e) What are the best things for tourists to do in your country?
- f) What are the bad things about tourism?
- g) What are the good things about tourism?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Spain's leader about Spain?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- Spain is set
- The number of
- Spanish PM Mariano Rajoy corroborated
- continues a growing
- demonstrations and
- Europe recorded extraordinary
- an established and attractive
- tourism to
- International travel continues to
- a key driver
- destination
- unrest
- grow strongly
- results
- the figures
- the Americas grew
- to replace the USA
- trend
- in economic development
- international tourists

## Discussion – Student B

- What is your favourite tourist destination?
- How good is your country for tourists?
- What do you think of Spain?
- What do you think of the tourists who come to your country?
- How could your country be better for tourists?
- Would you visit a city where there was a terrorist attack?
- What three adjectives best describe your country?
- How important are tourists to your country?

## Spelling

- most popular tuirsot destination
- This is according to cssiittsta
- Rajoy dbrraoteorco the figures
- continues a growing tnder
- This is iseedtp the terror attack
- in Spain's Catalonia oigenr
- ndyextrioarar results
- large and rather treaum
- an established and rtviaatetc destination
- consolidating the tourism tsreco
- a key vrredi in economic development
- France etdinera its position

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. i	4. a	5. f
6. j	7. c	8. e	9. b	10. h

## Role Play

### Role A – Mediterranean

You think the Mediterranean is the best region to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their regions aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these regions (and why): Middle East, Central America or South-East Asia.

### Role B – Middle East

You think the Middle East is the best region to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their regions aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these regions (and why): Mediterranean, Central America or South-East Asia.

### Role C – Central America

You think Central America is the best region to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their regions aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these regions (and why): Middle East, Mediterranean or South-East Asia.

### Role D – South-East Asia

You think South-East Asia is the best region to visit. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their regions aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least attractive of these regions (and why): Middle East, Central America or Mediterranean.

## Speaking – Regions

Rank these with your partner. Put the best regions to visit at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- South America
- Oceania
- East Asia
- Africa
- Mediterranean
- Middle East
- North America
- South-East Asia

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.